

Capitol Report

News & Updates from Your State Capitol
By Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels

Audio Tour Opens Capitol Doors in New Way

Visitors to the Arkansas State Capitol now have another option for tours, with the introduction of an audio tour, benefiting weekend visitors and, soon, those who speak other languages.

"I'm excited to combine technology with history here at the State Capitol," Secretary Daniels said. "I'm proud that Arkansas will be among only three other states that offer audio tours of its Capitol."

Audio players are available at no charge at the Capitol Visitor Center and gift shop during business hours. Visitors will also

be able to bring their own mp3 players or mp3-capable smart phones and download the audio file from the Secretary of State's website, **www.sos.arkansas.gov** using the Capitol's free wireless Internet access. The bring-your-own option will be especially useful during weekends and holidays.

Including walking time around the building, the audio tour takes about 30 minutes and features the major areas of interest inside the Capitol. Maps are available to help visitors find their way.

(See **NEW TOUR** continued on Page 2)

Sprucing Up with Fresh Paint, New Floors and More

Continuing renovation and cosmetic work around the Capitol have made work spaces brighter and more efficient.

Fresh paint adorns the ceilings and crown moldings on the building's second floor, as well as the walls, ceiling and molding on the first floor's north and south wings.

The lower level corridors have undergone major cosmetic work, including repainted walls, additional lighting, new carpet and quartz tile and marble flooring that echoes the look of the Capitol's upper passageways.

Also in the lower level, the Secretary of State's photography and publications office has been renovated to remove obsolete darkrooms and provide more efficient use of available space.

Outside, the west side of the Capitol parking area is literally brighter with the addition of new post lights that complement the building's architectural style while providing an

additional level of safety. Work to clean and coat the lower balustrade around the building is also now complete.

It's all part of the administration's ongoing efforts to restore the Capitol to its original beauty, according to Secretary of State Charlie Daniels.

"I still look up and around the Capitol in amazement every time I walk in, and I'm thrilled that we've done so much to make Arkansans proud of their state Capitol," he said.



Each season brings a new area of focus for my staff and me, and summer was our time to step up our outreach programs and construction projects around the State Capitol.

If you haven't visited the State Capitol lately, you'll notice several areas where construction teams have been hard at work over the summer, especially the lower level passageways. This floor has always been very functional office space with minimal emphasis on cosmetics. As we began making needed repairs, I felt it was important to make the public spaces on this level feel as much a part of the Capitol as the upper floors.

In addition to new carpeting, paint and brighter lighting, we also replaced the badly cracked terrazzo flooring in the central hallways with white quartz tiles. Several offices have been updated to remove obsolete equipment and create more efficient workspace. All the changes have created a more welcoming environment and are enabling staff in several agencies to provide even better services to their constituents.

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(Continued from front page)

The summer's outreach programs ranged from educational workshops for election officials and teachers, to displays at business expos and conventions, as well as presentations to community groups. In all, our staff was involved in more than 50 of these events throughout the state this summer.

The programs roll right into fall with our popular Notary Public Seminars. Since we introduced the sessions in 2005, more than 2,000 notaries public have attended the free continuing education workshops. We'll be hosting seminars in 20 counties around the state through November 20. For the full schedule of dates and locations, visit our website, www.sos.arkansas.gov.

My office hosted the Arkansas Sister Cities State Meeting Oct. 1 in Hot Springs. You can also watch for our booth in the Hall of Industry for the Arkansas State Fair Oct. 9-18. We'll be on hand to help you register to vote, answer questions about corporate filings or share information on the new Capitol tours and other educational programs now available.

If you'd like to know more about the programs that are available to you, contact our outreach coordinator at (501) 683-3702.

Save a Tree

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2009 Franchise Tax Revenue Up \$2 million

In spite of frequent news of rising unemployment and businesses closing, the Secretary of State's Business & Commercial Services division recorded stronger numbers in the 2009 fiscal year than the previous year.

More businesses paid franchise taxes this year, and more met the May 1 deadline to avoid entering "delinquent" status. Although payment by mail is still the most common means, online payments are catching up. Of reports filed by the deadline, 44.21 percent of annual reports and franchise taxes were

filed online, up from 32.75 percent last year.

Total franchise tax revenues for the fiscal year were just over \$23 million, up from 2008's \$20.97 million. That provided more than \$14 million to the Educational Adequacy Fund.

Use of online corporate filing also increased, with 28 percent more online filings in 2009 than in 2008. The office saw a 10.9 percent decrease in the number of business entities dissolving in fiscal year 2009 – down to 15,035 from 16,675 a year ago.

(NEW TOUR Continued from front page)

An audio tour had been available in past years on cassette tape. "Technology has changed and become much more convenient, so we needed to change with it," Secretary Daniels said. "We have a self-guided tour, and since audio tours are so easy to develop now, it seemed like the logical next step."

More Tour Options around the Corner

Although the inaugural edition of the tour is in English, other languages will be added. Spanish is first on that list, slated for release later this year.

The convenient mp3 format makes it easy to add specialized tour programs as they are developed. In time, visitors

with a special interest in the governors' portraits, monuments or architecture will simply select a topical tour and start walking.

Another tour being developed will be available from the comfort of the classroom or home. The Secretary of State's office is creating an interactive online tour, expected to go live in 2010, to allow users easy access to Capitol images and information.

The virtual tour will include architectural drawings, construction photographs and other historic images, as well as contemporary photos and 360-degree views of many areas. Virtual visitors will also be able to explore the monuments, plants and trees featured on the Capitol grounds.





State Symbol at Work

A honey bee, the official state insect, caught in the act in one of the rose gardens earlier this summer.

The rose is a *Sunset Celebration* located in the rose garden adjacent to Third Street on the Capitol Grounds.

Arkansas Reaches Across the Globe through Sister Cities

State Meeting Held Oct. 1 in Hot Springs

This October, the Secretary of State's office hosted the 2009 Arkansas Sister Cities State Meeting to bring together community leaders who are interested in building relationships that promote peace and prosperity at home and abroad.

The meeting was held Thursday, Oct. 1, at the Arlington Hotel & Spa in Hot Springs, Ark., sister city to Hanamaki, Japan.

Arkansas Sister Cities, for which the Secretary of State serves as state coordinator, supports the growth and strengthening of partnerships between the state's municipalities and international communities. Seven Arkansas cities currently partner with over a dozen communities in eight different countries.

In addition to their Friendship Cities of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, United Kingdom, and Petite-Pierre, France, Little Rock also partners with: Changchun, China; Hanam City, South Korea; Kaohsiung, Taiwan; Pachuca, Mexico; and Ragusa, Italy. Little Rock delegates traveled to Kaohsiung to attend the 2009 World Games. A youth delegation made a visit to Newcastle-Upon-Tyne this summer to learn more about Little Rock's Friendship City.

North Little Rock's sister cities are Uiwang City, South Korea, and Uruapan, Mexico. Uiwang City sent a youth delegation to North Little Rock this summer to see the sights and experience the culture of Central Arkansas.

The students visited the State Capitol and received Arkansas Traveler certificates from Secretary Daniels.

Hot Springs has a vibrant partnership with Hanamaki, Japan. This September, a citizen delegation from Hot Springs traveled to Hanamaki. The visit included a special choral performance by local Arkansan musicians created specifically for their Japanese audience.

Other Arkansas Sister Cities include Fort Smith and Cisterna, Italy; Springdale and Huaibei, China; and Pine Bluff and the port city of Bando, Japan, which form the state's oldest sister city partnership. Gilbert, in Searcy County, is Sister Cities International's smallest member town with a population (at last check) of 33. They are partnered with Bride, Isle of Man, in the United Kingdom, and the two cities have created a fundraising cookbook to support their activities. Copies are available in the State Capitol Gift Shop.

Other Arkansas municipalities are actively seeking international partnerships just as there are cities abroad looking to partner with unique destinations in Arkansas.

For more information on the Sister Cities State Meeting or about finding a global partner for your community, contact Natasha Naragon, Arkansas Sister Cities State Coordinator, at (501) 683-1441, or natasha.naragon@sos.arkansas.gov.



Summer Workshops Highlight Field Trips, Lesson Ideas

The Secretary of State's annual teacher workshop series, "Using the State Capitol to Teach," remains a popular resource for teachers.

Conducted throughout the summer at educational cooperatives around the state and at the State Capitol, the workshops provide an overview of the educational materials and resources available from the Secretary of State's office, including voter education materials and programs for grades K-12, Arkansas frameworks-specific civics curriculum for grades K-8, classroom programs for grades K-12 and a teacher information CD with downloadable PDF files of Secretary of State education publications.

The teacher workshops meet the Arkansas Department of Education's guidelines for four hours of in-service credit and the required two-hour Arkansas history credit.

The agenda includes three sessions: "How to Make the Most of Your Capitol Field Trip," "Beyond State Symbol Activity Books: An Overview of Programs and Specialized Tours," and "The Best Online Resources

for Arkansas History, Civics, and Government." In the workshops, moderators also introduced a new CD-ROM that combines two popular educational resources: *The Arkansas Traveler Resource CD* and *The ABCs of Citizenship*, which offers Arkansas-specific civics lesson plans. The CD-ROM is available free of charge through the Secretary of State's office.

Many workshops include presentations from the Clinton Presidential Center about educational programs and activities, and from the Arkansas Humanities Council about grants available to fund an array of humanities studies.

The teacher workshops are part of the Secretary of State's ongoing efforts to educate and inform Arkansas's youth about their great state and the responsibilities of citizenship.

"The aim of these workshops is to help grow good citizens by giving teachers more innovative options for engaging students in the political process early on," said Secretary Daniels.

This year, approximately 400 teachers participated in nine workshops around the state.

Secretary of State's 2009 Summer Interns

Secretary of State Charlie Daniels greeted 18 students who served internships within the Secretary of State's office this summer. The students completed a number of projects and tasks within Elections, Communications and Education,

Business and Commercial Services, Gift Shop, Grounds and Building Operations divisions. To the left is: (first row, from left) Janae Smallwood, Emily Towe; (second row) Hayden Southern, Kenny Williams, Alex Ball, Chase Daneshmandi. Pictured with Secretary Daniels below are: (back row, from left) Mitchell Dedman, Eugene Brannon, Ryan Green, Rowan Phillips, Lillie Peterson, Scott Carnes, Andréa Mack (first row, from left) Megan Childress, Megan Hollowell, Shaneka Smith, BCS Director Charolett Martin, Secretary Charlie Daniels, Seyanna Stephens, Federica Gill. Not pictured are Joya Hampton, Gabrielle Mays and Greg Steinsiek.





Now Available 2009-2010 Directory

The latest edition of the Directory of Arkansas Elected Officials is now available from the Secretary of State's office. It provides contact information for all of the state's federal, state, district and county officials, as well as city mayors. To order your printed copy, contact the Elections Division at (501) 682-5070.

The publication is also available online in a new searchable format that does not require users to download large PDF files. To access the electronic directory – which offers the most up-to-date information available – visit **www.sos.arkansas.gov** and click on “Publications” under the Elections tab.

New Exhibits Honor State Symbols and Heroes

White-tailed deer, mockingbirds and honeybees have been spotted recently on the fourth floor of the State Capitol. No need to be alarmed, however; they're just the stars of a new permanent exhibit on Arkansas symbols.

Created by Secretary of State staff, *Standing for Arkansas* made its debut in late spring. The series is located in the west-side tower with panels interpreting the state's adopted symbols. In addition to photos and narrative, the displays include several three-dimensional elements. These pieces include a fiddle, handmade in the 1980s by a Northwest Arkansas luthier, and a half-cookie of loblolly pine, which gives visitors the chance to count rings and estimate the age of this state tree.

An upcoming permanent fourth-floor exhibit will be *Arkansans at War*, a set of eight panels honoring Arkansas's soldiers since 1812. This installation is planned for the fall and will incorporate the large bronze plaque honoring Desert Storm veterans and casualties, as well as the Pearl Harbor stained-glass memorial.

Recently drawing to a close was the State Capitol's summer exhibit, *Lines on the Land*, which celebrated the art and science of land surveying practiced in Arkansas for almost 200 years.

The exhibit featured images from the National Geodetic Survey's archives, as well as a wide selection of surveyors' equipment, and photographs which captures surveyors working in fields, atop mountains and standing waist-deep in snake-ridden Mississippi flood water. Notable artifacts included an ornate surveyor's compass as well as an early 19th-century brass-and-silver theodolite, a telescopic sighting device capable of measuring angles with geodetic accuracy.

The fall exhibit, *Natural National*, opened in September and highlights national parks throughout Arkansas. It is being presented in cooperation with the Arkansas Education Television Network to coincide with a new Ken Burns documentary on U.S. National Parks.

The Capitol is open to the public from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekends and holidays. To read more about past and present exhibits, visit **sos.arkansas.gov** and click on “Educational Resources.”





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The Long-Ago Pause That Refreshed

Any excavation on Capitol Hill produces its share of artifacts, usually brick fragments and other construction debris. One prize from this summer's construction was a clear glass bottle, nearly intact, unearthed near the Granite Mountain boulder on the mall just west of the Capitol. Vintage bottles and bottle fragments found in and around the Capitol were often once containers for liquor or industrial chemicals, but this one once held a more benign liquid: soda water.

Details of shape, mold-lines, finish and the presence of a crown-cap lip on the mouth-blown bottle suggested a manufacture date somewhere between 1900 and 1910. A business name molded on the bottle provided a connection to a venerable, long-vanished Little Rock enterprise, "WM. ZEISLER LITTLE ROCK ARK." As early as 1871, William S. Zeisler bottled soda water at 311 East 3rd Street; his residence was listed in the city directory as "3rd and Rock." By 1880, Zeisler had moved his operations to an alley-access plant located behind a house at 413 East 3rd where he remained through the 1920s. Zeisler's soda-bottling works was apparently a family affair: son William Jr. appeared in directories variously as driver, bottler and salesman from 1908. Adam Zeisler, possibly a brother, worked sometimes in the

soda bottling shop, and at other times as a porter or as a cook in a nearby saloon.

William Zeisler was listed as a manufacturer or bottler until at least 1927. By the time he died in 1929, he had moved to 2117 Cumberland and the business address was on West 16th Street. Son William Jr. stayed in the family business for a decade or more; the 1942 Little Rock directory listed him as a machine operator at the Rose City Bottling Company.



For over 50 years, the Zeisler bottling works provided carbonated beverages for Little Rock. The business never grew large, but notably, it hung on in the face of competitors. Exactly when the bottle was discarded at the Capitol work site cannot be determined; its contents may have eased the thirst of a workman, contractor, politician or even a prisoner. The bottle inspires many more questions than it can possibly answer, but its survival both helps recall a long-gone company and, in the middle of this summer's heat, harkens back to one of the many hot, dusty days on the Capitol job site, on which the prospect of a cool, fizzy drink tempted and ultimately snared someone at work on the new people's house.